

Norris  
10/705,569

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A container comprising:

- a) a base;
- b) a wall extending up from and perpendicular to the base forming a pool therein, with a upper edge of said wall forming an open end of said container;
- c) a first lip extending outwardly from the upper edge of said wall beyond an outer surface of said wall around a periphery of said wall outside said pool on a side opposite said base;
- d) a second lip extending outwardly around the periphery of said wall outside said pool, a bottom surface of said second lip being an extension of a bottom surface of said base, said second lip extending beyond the outer surface of said wall, the outer surface of said wall extending smoothly and uninterruptedly between said first and second lips; and
- e) a lid having a shape and size that corresponds with a shape and size of said base, said lid including a retaining channel extending around a periphery thereof for releasably receiving one of said first and second lips for releasably securing said lid to the open end of said container or said bottom surface of said base of said container.

2. (currently amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retaining channel is formed by a lip edge extending at a right angle from a surface of and along the periphery of said lid to form a channel on an inner side thereof facing the outer surface of said wall.

3. (original) The container as claimed in claim 2, wherein said lid is releasably secured to said first lip by exerting a pressure on said lid of an amount able to cause said lip edge to pass over said first lip and said first lip is retained within said channel.

4. (previously presented) The container as claimed in claim 2, wherein said lid is releasably secured to said second lip by exerting a pressure on said lid of an amount able to

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cause said lip edge to pass over said second lip and said first lip is retained within said channel.

5. (currently amended) The container as claimed in claim 4, wherein said container is one of a group of different sized containers designed to nest within each other and each lid is color coded to correspond with a color of said second lip on a corresponding sized container, the color of said second lip being limited to said second lip.

6. (currently amended) A container storage system including a plurality of nestable containers, each container being of a different size, wherein each container includes:

- a) a base;
- b) a wall extending up from and perpendicular to the base forming a pool therein, with an upper edge of said wall forming an open end of said container;
- c) a first lip extending outwardly from the upper edge of said wall and beyond an outer surface of said wall around a periphery of said wall outside said pool on a side opposite said base;
- d) a second lip extending outwardly around the periphery of said wall outside said pool, a bottom surface of said second lip being an extension of a bottom surface of said base, said lip extending beyond the outer surface of said wall, the outer surface of said wall extending smoothly and uninterruptedly between said first and second lips; and
- e) a lid having a shape and size that corresponds with a shape and size of said base, said lid including a retaining channel extending around a periphery thereof for releasably receiving one of said first and second lips for releasably securing said lid to the open end of said container or said bottom surface of said base of said container for storage within a larger container.

7. (currently amended) A method for storing containers comprising the steps of:

- a) applying a pressure to a lid of a first container in a direction towards a base of the first container causing a lip extending outwardly around a wall of the first

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container to be received in a channel of the lid, said lip having a bottom surface being an extension of a bottom surface of said base and extending beyond an outer surface of said wall;

- b) applying a pressure to a lid of a smaller second container in a direction towards a base of the second container causing a lip extending around a wall of the second container to be received in a channel of the lid of the second container, said lip having a bottom surface being an extension of a bottom surface of said base of the second container and extending beyond an outer surface of the wall of said second container;
- c) positioning the smaller second container within the first container; and
- d) storing the first and second containers in a spatially efficient way.

8. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of color coding the base lips of said containers with said lids for matching a color of each lid of the first and second containers to a color of a base lip of each of the first and second containers, only the base lips being color coded with respective lids.

9. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

- a) applying a pressure to a lid of a third container smaller than said second container in a direction towards a base of the third container causing a lip extending outwardly around a wall of the third container to be received in a channel of the lid of the third container, said lip of said lid of the third container having bottom surface being an extension of a bottom surface of the base of said third container;
- b) positioning the smaller third container within the second container; and
- c) storing the first, second and third containers in a spatially efficient way.

10-12. (canceled)